

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SY-05

MCT-01 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 TRSE-00 /079 W

----- 080713

R 020620Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2846

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, TH

SUBJECT: SECURITY AT BANGKOK'S DON MUANG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REF: (A) STATE 212490; (B) BANGKOK 22999

1. EMBOFFS HAVE DELIVERED AIDE-MEMOIRE TO MFA  
EMPHASIZING POINTS RAISED IN PARA 1 AND 2 OF REFTEL  
(A), AND DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC DIVISION, SAWANIT KONGSIRI. RTG HAS NOT  
REPEAT NOT RATIFIED EITHER 1970 HAGUE OR 1971  
MONTREAL CONVENTION, BUT SAWANIT PROMISED TO LOOK  
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INTO THE MATTER.

2. EMBOFF HAS CONDUCTED PERSONAL, ON-SITE SECURITY INVESTIGATION AT BANGKOK'S DON MUANG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AND HAS DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH LOCAL ICAO AND AIRLINE REPS. SECURITY AT DON MUANG IS A FARCE, AND EMBASSY AGREES WITH ONE AIRLINE EXPERT WHO SAID, "ANY TERRORIST WHO WANTS TO COME IN WOULD HAVE A FIELD DAY." EMBOFF PERSONALLY ENTERED SUPPOSEDLY SECURE DEPARTURE LOUNGE THREE REPEAT THREE SEPARATE TIMES WITHOUT SHOWING IDENTIFICATION OR BEING CHALLENGED. HE ALSO NOTICED THAT ANYONE WEARING A UNIFORM -- CREW, STAFF, MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL, ETC. -- WANDERED ABOUT AT WILL, WITH OR WITHOUT ID PASS. ICAO AND AIRLINE REPS CONFIRMED THAT ALMOST ANYONE MAY GO PRACTICALLY ANYWHERE AT DON MUANG, INCLUDING DEPARTURE AND TRANSIT LOUNGES, AND WILL RARELY IF EVER BE ASKED TO PRODUCE THE REQUIRED PASS. RECENT RETURN TO THAILAND OF FIELD MARSHAL PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN (SEE REFTEL B) ILLUSTRATES THIS POINT VERY WELL. PRAPHAT WAS MET AT PLANESIDE BY AN UNMARKED CAR AND WHISKED AWAY TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION. HE NEVER PASSED THROUGH IMMIGRATION OR CUSTOMS.

3. TRANSIT AND DEPARTURE LOUNGES ADJOIN EACH OTHER. UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO, PASSENGERS IN THESE LOUNGES COULD MOVE BACK AND FORTH THROUGH A SET OF DOUBLE GLASS DOORS. THESE DOORS ARE NOW LOCKED, SO ACCESS TO TRANSIT LOUNGE FROM DEPARTURE LOUNGE, AND VICE VERSA, HAS BEEN STOPPED. HOWEVER, TRANSIT PASSENGERS RECEIVE MINIMAL, IF ANY, SCREENING BOTH INTO AND OUT OF THE LOUNGE. AT PRESENT, ALL HAND-LUGGAGE INSPECTION AND METAL DETECTOR CHECKS ON PASSENGERS ARE CONDUCTED BY THE AIRLINES THEMSELVES. DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION (DCA), WHICH CONTROLS CIVIL AVIATION AT DON MUANG, HAS NO FUNDS FOR SUCH SECURITY MEASURES.

4. CONSENSUS AMONG AIRLINE PEOPLE IN BANGKOK SEEMS TO BE THAT DON MUANG IS "RIPE" FOR A TERRORIST ATTACK.  
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SOME OF THOSE CONTACTED WERE SURPRISED THAT ONE HAD NOT ALREADY OCCURRED.

5. RTG AND DCA HAVE NOT BEEN CONTACTED ABOUT FAA SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM, AS MENTIONED IN REFTEL (A), PARA 5. PANAM REP BELIEVES THAI AUTHORITIES WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES, EMBASSY WILL CONTACT DCA ON THIS MATTER.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROCEDURAL SECURITY, AIRPORTS, BUILDINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BANGKO24662  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760332-1316  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 116  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 212490, 76 BANGKOK 22999  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SECURITY AT BANGKOK'S DON MUANG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
**TAGS:** EAIR, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006